

those standards. It is not going to help everybody. It is not going to help those that are so adamant and unwilling to make any adjustment whatsoever that they will refuse to comply with the different provisions that Senator Vickers is offering. No, it is not going to help those people. Those people want such absolute ability to isolate and separate themselves from the rest of our society in this state in terms of our public schools and private schools and the standards we have adopted for so many different years but, nevertheless, I think it is clear that for those that are more legitimate or longstanding, more flexible in their attitude, it seems to me that they will be able to find agreement with these amendments and be able to continue to operate in this state. That is what we want to do and we are talking about the Mennonites and the Amish, some of those Fundamentalist schools that have been around for a while and are not so strident that they are not willing to recognize that the state has some oversight function, minimal as it is in this bill, still there would be some slight oversight. And despite the fact that I am standing here in support of the amendment, it scares me because I like the present situation that we have. Most Nebraskans like the present standards that we have and they don't want the change, as I said before. Even this change is one that is too far for most of them but I think some change is in order. We have to try to appease and recognize some of the concerns that have been expressed over the past few years. This is a lessening and a loosening of those standards and Senator DeCamp says it is not enough but I think maybe it may even be too much but I think it is something I am willing to do at this time. I think many other senators I have talked to are willing to do this much and it shifts the ground on which we talk about the issue. We shift from that amendment which we defeated which I think went far, far too much in the direction that the Fundamentalists wanted and, in fact, we're now more in the middle, between the concerns of the Fundamentalists and those of us concerned with our present standards. So it shifts the focus and the discussion can be carried forth on Select and Final Reading. Perhaps other adjustments will be forthcoming but this amendment is a good starting point. It is a good place to start the effort to reach a compromise rather than the last